

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An authentication method of an image processing system in which a host computer, an authentication apparatus and an image processing apparatus are connected to a network, ~~information in the image processing apparatus being processable in accordance with a remote operation from the host computer;~~ the method comprising:

~~a first authentication~~ transmission step of, at the image processing apparatus, ~~authenticating~~ transmitting data for specifying the authentication apparatus to the host computer ~~the image processing apparatus~~ in a case where ~~[[when]]~~ the host computer ~~[[is to]]~~ remotely operates ~~information in the image processing apparatus;~~ ~~[[and]]~~

~~an second~~ authentication step of, at the host computer, causing the authentication apparatus specified by the data to ~~performing~~ perform an authentication process ~~for an operation~~ with respect to the remote operation from the host computer to the image processing apparatus; ~~and information on the basis of a code stored in the host computer~~

a remote operation step of, at the host computer, remotely operating the image processing apparatus in accordance with an authentication result of the authentication process in said authentication step.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein in the transmission step add-on software including the data is transmitted to the host computer, and in said authentication step the authentication process is executed by the add-on software downloaded from the image processing apparatus.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the authentication process is performed using a dictionary which defines codes stored in the host computer and operations with respect to the ~~information~~ image processing apparatus.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein the dictionary is contained in ~~[[an]]~~ the authentication device apparatus on the network.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein the data is an address of the authentication ~~device~~ apparatus on the network ~~is determined by add-on software~~.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the remote operation ~~with respect to the information~~ is at least one of download, browsing, printing, and transfer.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) An image processing system in which a host computer, an authentication apparatus and an image processing apparatus are connected to a

network, ~~information in said image processing apparatus being processable in accordance with a remote operation from said host computer, comprising:~~

a transmission unit configured to, at said image processing apparatus, transmit data for specifying the authentication apparatus to said host computer ~~first authenticating means for performing authentication to said image processing apparatus when~~ in a case where said host computer ~~[[is to]] remotely operates information in said image processing apparatus; [[and]]~~

an authentication unit configured to, at the host computer, cause the authentication apparatus specified by the data to perform ~~second authenticating means for performing an authentication process for an operation with respect to the~~ remote operation from the host computer to the image processing apparatus; and ~~information on the basis of a code stored in said host computer~~

a remote operation unit configured to, at the host computer, remotely operate the image processing apparatus in accordance with an authentication result of the authentication process by said authentication unit.

Claims 8 and 9. (Canceled)

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium recording a program ~~cited in claim 9~~ for causing a computer to execute an authentication method of an image processing system in which a host computer and an image processing apparatus are connected to a network, the method comprising:

a transmission step of, at the image processing apparatus, transmitting data for

specifying an authentication apparatus to the host computer in a case where the host computer remotely operates the image processing apparatus; and

an authentication step of, at the host computer, causing the authentication apparatus specified by the data to perform an authentication process with respect to the remote operation from the host computer to the image processing apparatus; and

a remote operation step of, at the host computer, remotely operating the image processing apparatus in accordance with an authentication result of the authentication process in said authentication step.